

Abstract

5 The subject invention concerns novel methods and materials for treating patients afflicted with allergic conditions, such as allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, bronchial asthma and food allergy. The method of the subject invention comprises administering interferon tau (IFN $\tau$ ) or a chimeric IFN (ovine IFN $\tau$  (1-27)/human IFN $\alpha$ D (28-166)) to a person afflicted with an allergic condition. When administered, IFN $\tau$  and chimeric IFN suppress the production of IgE antibodies without toxic side effects. The subject invention also concerns chimeric ovine/human IFNs which can be used in the methods of the invention.